

## THE IMMIGRATION OF LEPIDOPTERA TO THE BRITISH ISLES IN 1979: A SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE

By R. F. BRETHERTON\* and J. M. CHALMERS-HUNT\*\*

The following corrections and additions should be made to the main report (in *Ent. Rec.* 92: 89-97):—

### *Corrections*

RHODOMETRA SACRARIA L. The record "YORKS v.c. 61. Filey, 1.10, infertile female" should be deleted. Mr. P. Q. Winter has informed us that this should apply to an example of *Peridroma saucia* Hubn.

ORTHONAMA OBSTIPATA F. the record "DENBIGH-SHIRE. In May one" should be dated 16.5

### *Additions*

RHODOMETRA SACRARIA L. S. ESSEX. Rainham, 9.9., one after 00.15 hrs (G. S. Robinson, *Ent. Gaz.*, 31: 228).

LITHOSIA QUADRA L. DENBIGHSHIRE. Abergele, 16/17.8 (S. Coxey).

MYTHIMNA UNIPUNCTA Haw. W. SUSSEX. Arundel, 25.10 (J. T. Radford).

MYTHIMNA ALBIPUNCTA D. & S. Dungeness 31.8 (P. Jewess).

CHRYSODEIXIS CHALCITES Esp. N. ESSEX. Dovercourt, 25.9.78, 2.10.79. Mr. P. Smith has helpfully given further detail about these captures, which were only barely recorded *Ent. Rec.*, 92: 62, 97). The first was caught before mid-night in a trap with a 20 watt U.V. lamp. Unlike the example figured by South (1961, I, pl. 141), it had the forewing silver spots joined, but was worn: it was identified at the BM (Nat. Hist). The second, a fresh specimen with the spots separate, was caught in the same trap, also before mid-night. The trap faces south and, though surrounded on three sides by houses, is open to the sea, about a mile distant. In answer to our inquiry whether these examples might have resulted from local breeding in nurseries or gardens, Mr. Smith says that the nearest chrysanthemum nursery known to him is ten miles away, and that there are few plants in neighbouring gardens. This supports the view that both his captures were primary immigrants.

AGRIUS CONVULVULI L. Co. KERRY S. Bull Rock lighthouse, 12.9. (J. P. Hillis and R. F. Haynes, *Irish Migrant Insects*, 1979, *I.N.J.*, 20: 122-124).

Their report also contains information about some commoner species. Of *Colias crocea* Fourc. four were seen at Cape Clear, co. Cork West, 9.9 (2), 9.10 (2). Of *C. cardui* in all 181 were reported, mostly at Cape Clear, but also at the Aran Is., co. Galway and elsewhere. The first was seen at

\* Folly Hill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey GU5 0LE.

\*\* 1 Hardcourts Close, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9LG.

Lakyle, co. Clare, 16.5, the last at Cape Clear, 28.10, the northernmost on Rathlin Is., co. Antrim, 3.7. *Vanessa atalanta* was scarce early in the year, with the first at Great Saltee Is., co. Wexford, 14.5, but abundant in late August and September, ending at Cape Clear 28.10, and with the most northerly at Fintra, co. Donegal. There were also records of nine *Macroglossa stellatarum* L., beginning on Macgillicuddy's Reeks, 15.7 and ending at Cape Clear 13.10.

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THE CLOAKED PUG: *EUPITHECIA ABIETARIA* GOEZE. — Further to previous notes on this moth (in *Ent. Rec.*, 91: 220 and 92: 25), I took a specimen this year (as exhibited at the British Entomological & Natural History Society Annual Exhibition 1980). A female in perfect condition was sitting on the inside wall of my garden MV moth trap in Winchester (V.C. 11) on the morning of 19th June 1980. My initial presumption was that it had been introduced accidentally into the garden with some *Picea abies* cones collected from an area some five or six miles away from Winchester (still in V.C. 11) in hope of breeding out *Cydia strobilella* Linn. I now consider this unlikely, as the cones were collected on 23rd February 1980, when the moth would have been a pupa, and all authors state that the larvae feed on the immature seeds in the cones until September, after which they leave them to pupate on the ground, so there appears little chance that it could have been in the cones when they were collected. The previous records of this species as quoted in the reference at the beginning of this note indicate that this is the 10th recorded specimen since the war, the others being three from Scotland, two from the North of England, three from Surrey or SW London and one from Gloucester. Such random records hardly seem to fit in with these moths being migrants, but perhaps rather that it is breeding locality, but the most recent Hampshire record in 1897, and it seems unlikely that it could have been present in a County popular with entomologists and remained undetected for 93 years.

If my specimen had bred locally, as its condition would seem to indicate, there are a number of scattered *Picea abies* in various near-by Winchester gardens, but none of those that I have been able to examine appear to be producing any cones. There is a Forestry Commission plantation containing an area of mature trees, some of which bear cones, at a distance of some three miles, which could be a possible local source. Perhaps, when migration records for 1980 are put together, it may become clear whether there was any migration in progress at the time that it was taken. If not, there is hope that this species may still be resident in Hampshire. —Col. D. H. STERLING, "Tangmere" 2 Hampton Lane, Winchester,, Hampshire.